

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 12 and 20-31 have been amended. No new matter added has been added. Thus, claims 12-31 are pending in the present application. Thus, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable.

II. THE CLAIM OBJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 10-21 at the end of page 2 and continued on page 3 of the preliminary amendment mailed April 1, 2004 were misnumbered. The previous claims 10-21 have been renumbered 20-31 in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126 which requires the original numbering of the claims to be preserved throughout the prosecution. Accordingly, claims 12-31 are now correctly numbered, and it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner withdraw his objections to these claims.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. § 112 REJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The Examiner has rejected claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being unclear for failing to identify from which claim it depends. (See 5/5/04 Office Action, para. 6, page 2). Claim 28 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Specifically, claim 28 now recites "A distributed service system according to claim 27, wherein the first peripheral is registered with the Jini services." The language of claim 28 is supported in the specification at page 7 which describes implementation of the Jini services. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the § 112, second paragraph, rejection of claim 28 be withdrawn.

IV. THE 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The Examiner has rejected claims 12, 13, 23-26 and 29-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,415,341 to Fry, Sr. et al. ("the Fry patent"). (See 5/5/04 Office Action, para. 8, page 3).

The Fry patent describes a point-of-sale (POS) system utilizing a protocol converter/print share device to interface with peripheral devices and a POS terminal. (See the Fry patent, col. 4, lines 17-20). The POS terminal is connected via its RS-485 I/O channel with the protocol converter. (See the Fry patent, col. 5, lines 16-19). The protocol converter operably converts the RS-485 commands from the POS terminal to RS-232 commands to be sent to a printer. (See the Fry patent, col. 5, lines 27-29). The protocol converter can further format commands from the POS terminal to control the peripheral devices attached to a personal computer (PC) client. (See the Fry patent, col. 5, lines 31-34).

Claim 12 of the present application is directed to a distributive service system comprising "a register device for conducting a transaction" and "a first peripheral device configured to communicate information regarding the transaction according to a first protocol" and "a protocol converter coupled to the register device and the first peripheral device, the protocol converter configured to receive information from the first peripheral device according to the first protocol and communicate the information using TCP/IP" in combination with "*a transaction controller coupled to the protocol converter and the register device, the transaction controller operable to facilitate communication between the register device and the protocol converter.*"

The Fry patent does not disclose or suggest "a transaction controller coupled to the protocol converter and the register device, the transaction controller operable to facilitate communication between the register device and the protocol converter," as recited in claim 12. The Examiner states that the Fry patent discloses such a transaction controller, because the print

share components of the protocol converter/print share device are the equivalent of a transaction controller. (See 5/5/04 Office Action, para. 9, page 3). However, Applicants respectfully submit that "print share" is synonymous with "protocol converter," not "transaction controller." As is understood by those skilled in the art, protocol converters can offer PC/LAN sharing. Typical protocol converters may now be equipped with a standard print-sharing port, so an ASCII printer can be shared simply by attaching it to a PC/LAN network. Therefore, the "protocol converter/print share device" described in the Fry patent is simply a protocol converter with print-share capability, not "a transaction controller coupled to the protocol converter and the register device, the transaction controller operable to facilitate communication between the register device and the protocol converter," as recited in claim 12.

Furthermore, the Fry patent states, "the purpose of the protocol converter/print share device 30 is to allow both POS terminals 12 and 14 access to printer 32." (See the Fry patent, col. 4, lines 26-29). The Fry patent goes on to state, "protocol converter/print share device 30 is operable to convert the print commands output from POS terminals 12 and 14 to RS-232 format, prioritize those commands, and send those commands to printer 32 over the RS-232 communications link in standard ASCII format or another format understood by printer 32." (See the Fry patent, col. 4, lines 29-34). Thus, the protocol converter/print share device may enable communication between the POS terminal and the printer, but no where does the Fry patent state that the protocol converter/print share device "*facilitate[s] communication between the register device and the protocol converter,*" as recited in claim 12. The transaction controller, as defined by Applicants, facilitates communication between the register device and the protocol converter when, for example, a new peripheral is added to the system. (See Specification, page 6, lines 17-27). The transaction controller can convert transmissions from a POS register to a format understandable by the new peripheral, and send those transmissions through the protocol converter. (See Specification, page 6, lines 20-24). The transaction controller may further receive transmissions from the new peripheral through the protocol converter, and convert those transmissions to a format understandable by the POS register. (See Specification, page 6, lines 24-27). The transaction controller allows a user to add the new

peripheral to the system without taking the system offline. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Fry patent does not disclose "a transaction controller coupled to the protocol converter and the register device, the transaction controller operable to facilitate communication between the register device and the protocol converter," as recited in claim 12, and the Examiner should withdraw the rejection of this claim.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13, 23-26, 29 and 30, which depend from and, therefore, include the limitations of claim 12, are allowable for at least the reasons stated above. Furthermore, independent claim 31, which includes substantially the same limitations as claim 12 including "operating a transaction controller remotely located from said register device and coupled to the protocol converter and the register device, the transaction controller operable to facilitate communication between the register device and the protocol converter," should also be allowable for the reasons stated above.

V. THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The Examiner has rejected claims 14-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Fry patent. (See 5/5/04 Office Action, para. 17, page 5). In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14-22, which depend from and include the limitations of claim 12, are allowable at least for the reasons stated above.

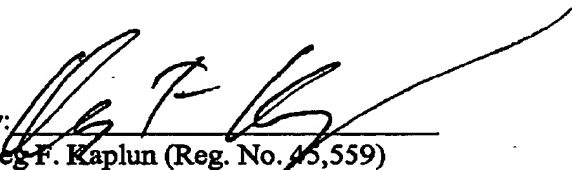
The Examiner has rejected claims 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Fry patent in view of <http://www.sun.com/jini> ("the Sun reference"). (See 5/5/04 Office Action, para. 20, page 6). Claims 27 and 28, which depend from claim 12, either directly or indirectly, include the limitations of claim 12. The Sun reference does not cure the above described deficiencies of the Fry patent. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 27 and 28 are allowable at least for the reasons stated above.

VL CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, and an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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